Public Notice

Applicant:

Date:

City Johnson

Central Published: July 26, 2001

School District

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U.S. Army Corps

of Engineers

In Reply Refer To:

Buffalo District CELRB-CO-R RE: 2001-00301(0) Section: NY 404

Application for Permit under Authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

Johnson City Central School District, 666 Reynolds Road, Johnson City, New York 13790, has applied for a Department of the Army permit to impact four Federally regulated wetland areas which include three wetland areas totaling 0.47 acre and one intermittent stream area 440 linear feet in length. The impacts are associated with the proposed construction of a new school building, athletic fields, tennis courts, and parking facilities. The project is located at 666 Reynolds Road, Johnson City, Broome County, New York.

The project consists of the following:

- Fill approximately 440 linear feet of on-site intermittent stream (Wetland "G" on the enclosed Sheets 3 and 4 of 5) for parking lot and roadway construction. The stream collects surface water runoff from adjacent uplands and functions as a storm water overflow.
- Excavate and grade Wetland "D" as well as widen a section of the wetland (see enclosed Sheets 2 and 3 of 5). Wetland "D" is a man-made 0.19 acre emergent wetland used as a storm water detention basin which feeds the intermittent stream (Wetland "G"). The proposed fill is needed to accommodate a proposed roadway. remainder of the wetland will be expanded and will continue to function as a detention basin.
- Excavate and grade Wetland "E" as well as widen a section of the wetland (see enclosed Sheets 2 and 3 of 5). Wetland "E" is a man-made 0.16 acre emergent wetland used as a storm water detention basin. The proposed fill is needed to accommodate a proposed roadway. The remainder of the wetland will be expanded and will continue to function as a detention basin.
- Fill a 0.12 acre section of Wetland "A", a 2.63 acre palustrine emergent and scrub-shrub wetland (see enclosed Sheet 3 of 5). The proposed fill is needed to accommodate a proposed roadway. Wetland A is the site for mitigation of the combined wetland impacts (0.47 acre).
- As mitigation for unavoidable impacts to Wetlands "D", "E", and "A", a total of 0.47 acre, the applicant proposes to create 0.71 acre of in-kind palustrine emergent wetland on the project

Mitigation will be provided at a ratio of 1.5 to 1 (mitigation to impact). The new wetlands will be created on the south side of Wetland "A" (see enclosed Sheet 3 of 5). The goal of the proposed mitigation is to enhance wildlife habitat, increase flood storage capabilities, and increase the function of the largest and highest quality wetland complex on-site, as well as create educational opportunities for teachers and students to study wetland functions and values. The mitigation plan includes monitoring procedures, success criteria, and reporting requirements for submittal to the Army Corps of Engineers for review.

f. As mitigation for unavoidable impacts to 440 linear feet of intermittent stream, the applicant proposes to create 231 linear feet of intermittent stream, on-site and adjacent to the impacted stream. An additional 145 linear foot section will be piped for roadway construction. The piped section will be connected into Wetland "D" which will function as a storm water retention basin. The new stream will be created to the north of the existing stream to be filled in (see enclosed Sheet 3 of 5). Mitigation of the stream includes lining the stream with cobblestone and installation of nine stone weirs to protect against erosion (see enclosed Sheets 4 and 5 of 5). The goal of the proposed mitigation is to relocate the existing intermittent stream and to improve function of storm water retention and flow, as well as improve water quality.

The applicant's stated purpose is to construct new school facilities to accommodate New York State Education Department guidelines and supplement existing inadequate facilities.

Location and details of the above described work are shown on the attached maps and drawings.

Questions pertaining to the work described in this notice should be directed to Martin H. Crosson, who can be contacted by calling (716) 879-4346, or by e-mail at: martin.h.crosson@usace.army.mil, or to Steven V. Metivier at (716)879-4314.

There are no registered historic properties or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places that will be affected by this project.

In addition, available evidence indicates that the proposed work will not affect a species proposed or designated by the U.S. Department of the Interior as threatened or endangered, nor will it affect the critical habitat of any such species.

This notice is promulgated in accordance with Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, parts 320-330. Any interested party desiring to comment on the work described herein may do so by submitting their comments, in writing, so that they are received no later than 4:30 pm on the expiration date of this notice.

Comments should be sent to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, New York 14207, and should be marked to the attention of Martin H. Crosson, or by e-mail at: martin.h.crosson@usace.army.mil. A lack of response will be interpreted as meaning that there is no objection to the work as proposed.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be fully considered during the public interest review for this permit application. All written comments will be made a part of the administrative record which is available to the public under the Freedom of Information Act. The Administrative Record, or portions thereof may also be posted on a Corps of Engineers internet web site. Due to resource limitations, this office will normally not acknowledge the receipt of comments or respond

to individual letters of comment.

Any individual may request a public hearing by submitting their written request, stating the specific reasons for holding a hearing, in the same manner and time period as other comments.

Public hearings for the purposes of the Corps permit program will be held when the District Commander determines he can obtain additional information, not available in written comments, that will aid him in the decision making process for this application. A Corps hearing is not a source of information for the general public, nor a forum for the resolution of issues or conflicting points of view (witnesses are not sworn and cross examination is prohibited). Hearings will not be held to obtain information on issues unrelated to the work requiring a permit, such as property ownership, neighbor disputes, or the behavior or actions of the public or applicant on upland property not regulated by the Department of the Army. Information obtained from a public hearing is given no greater weight than that obtained from written comments. Therefore, you should not fail to make timely written comments because a hearing might be held.

The decision to approve or deny this permit request will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Paul G. Leuchner Chief, Regulatory Branch

NOTICE TO POSTMASTER: It is requested that this notice be posted continuously and conspicuously for 30 days from the date of issuance.









